

PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES BILL 1977

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

ITEM 1 (SCHOOLS, HOSTELS, &c.—\$190,000,000).

A total amount of \$158.1 Million has been allocated by the Government from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Education Department during the 1977-78 financial year.

The appropriation provided by this Item covers building and other works at primary, secondary, technical, and special schools, mid-level colleges, and school camps, the construction and adaptation of accommodation for administrative staff, the purchase of sites for new schools and for the extension of school grounds, the provision of furniture and equipment and special grants towards the cost of assembly halls, special purpose rooms and for other projects related to Education.

The components of this allocation and a comparison with the 1976-77 expenditure are as follows :—

	1976-77 <i>Expenditure</i>	1977-78 <i>Allocation</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
State Funds	97,428	107,382
Commonwealth Funds		
<i>State Grants (Schools) Act 1972-74</i>	12,174	} 37,711
<i>State Grants (Schools) Act 1976</i>	13,151	
<i>State Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1976</i>	12,331	
Proposed New Commonwealth Legislation		
State Grants (T.A.F.E.) Act	7,243	13,050
Total Commonwealth	44,899	50,761
Total Funds	142,327	158,143

The 1977-78 Works and Services allocation of \$158,143,000 will be expended mainly against the following Items :—

	\$'000
Item 1 of both the Current Act No. 8928 and 1977 Bill	153,203
Item 91 of both the Current Act 8928 and 1977 Bill	3,800
Item 18 of Current Act 8928 and Item 50 of 1977 Bill	1,100
	158,103

The Commonwealth allocations quoted for 1977-78 are tentative and subject to confirmation.

Last year was the first year in which planning of capital works programs was undertaken on a Regional basis. This approach is operating well and it is proposed during 1977-78 to transfer increased responsibilities for the planning of school building programs to the Regional Priorities Review Committees. In particular, the Regions will assume management responsibility for the school furniture budgets and relocatable classrooms.

The Regions are being assisted in their planning responsibilities by the Education and Public Works Departments which provide an advisory service on building, financial and educational programs.

The approved 1977-78 Building Program provides for—

(a) the following 22 new schools to be established during the 1978 School year—

Primary

Iramoo (at Sunshine)	..	..	..	..	Movelle (at St. Albans)
Coolaroo	..	..	..	..	Dorset (at Croydon)
Livingstone (at Vermont)	..	..	..	..	Kalinda (at Ringwood)
Weeden Drive (at Vermont South)	..	..	..	..	Avonsleigh (at Emerald)
Eastbourne (at Rosebud)	..	..	..	..	Melrose (at Wodonga)
Rosewall (at Corio)	..	..	..	..	St. Albans Meadows
Jells Park	..	..	..	..	Serpell (at Templestowe)
Ararat North	..	..	..	..	Meadowfair North

Secondary

High Schools at—Wendouree, Broadmeadows North, Corio North, and Warrandyte.
A Technical/High School at Whittlesea.

Technical

Brandon Park at Waverley.

- (b) the commencement of at least 113 building projects at primary, secondary and technical schools each in excess of \$100,000.
- (c) the completion of 9 assembly hall projects.
- (d) the commencement of 4 fire reinstatement projects.
- (e) an allocation of \$5.8 Million for Special Education. This represents a 74 per cent. increase on the 1976-77 expenditure and reflects the greater emphasis on providing suitable facilities for handicapped children. The Education Department has assumed the responsibility from Local Committees which operated under the administration of the Mental Health Authority for the funding of 15 Special Development Schools and it is proposed that an additional 2 centres will transfer to the Department during 1977-78. In addition, 6 new centres are expected to be established during 1977-78.
- (f) a further \$3.8 Million for the Teacher Housing Authority. The increase in the level of funding of \$2 Million to the Authority last year considerably reduced the backlog in maintenance works on teacher accommodation. The impetus given to this program last year will be maintained during 1977-78.
- (g) an allocation of \$12.8 Million for the construction of new relocatable classrooms. This represents a 49 per cent increase on the 1976-77 expenditure. It has been found that modern relocatable classrooms provide a very efficient means of catering for peak and short-term requirements in a particular area.
- (h) a greater emphasis on technical education. Capital funds available from the Commonwealth for technical and further education have increased from \$7.2 Million last year to \$13 Million in 1977-78. Together with a State allocation of \$5.8 Million the total funds available for technical and further education will be \$18.8 Million—an increase of \$6.4 Million, or just over 50 per cent.

New major projects at technical schools and colleges are being developed at Moorabbin, Collingwood, Newport, Box Hill, Batman, Dandenong, Werribee, Sunshine, Templestowe, Keysborough and Bairnsdale. Existing colleges at Preston and Footscray are being extended. Special arrangements have been made for the accelerated training of apprentices at a number of existing trade training establishments.

- (i) an increasing number of jointly funded initiatives involving schools, municipal Councils and community service agencies. These initiatives, motivated entirely at local level, will include libraries and other resource centres, gymnasiums and multi-purpose community service facilities for joint use by students and the community.

Currently, major centres are being developed or are planned at Wangaratta, Moe and Horsham.

ITEM 3 (PARLIAMENT HOUSE—INCLUDING ELECTORATE OFFICES—\$1,700,000).

An allocation of \$602,000 has been made available from the Works and Services Account for expenditure at Parliament House during the 1977-78 financial year.

In 1976-77, excellent progress was made with the establishment and fitting out of electorate offices for Members of Parliament and accommodation has now been provided for all Members of Parliament who require an Electorate Office. There is now a total of 81 offices, of which some accommodate more than one Member. An amount of \$103,000 has been provided in 1977-78, which will bring the total expenditure on this work to \$616,000.

A major renovation of the Legislative Council Chamber is nearing completion at a total cost of \$134,000.

An amount of \$235,000 has been provided for a continuation of general renovations, including redecoration of the Main Vestibule area leading into Queen's Hall.

The Government has under consideration the question of the provision of funds for a start on extensions to the North Wing.

ITEM 4 (GOVERNMENT HOUSE \$300,000).

An amount of \$224,000 has been allocated for expenditure on essential renovations to the buildings and grounds.

Included in this is an amount of \$80,000 for urgent repairs and painting of the tower.

ITEM 5 (POLICE DEPARTMENT—\$15,000,000).

An amount of \$11,105,000 has been allocated for the 1977-78 Works Program of the Police Department, an increase of 17.5 per cent. over the 1976-77 expenditure of \$9,453,551.

The Government has given high priority to the provision, improvement and extension of facilities and properties required by the Victoria Police over recent years and this policy will continue in 1977-78.

Works in hand at the Police Academy are estimated at \$3.6 Million. The major projects are the Physical Education Complex and two Residential Blocks. These projects should be completed next financial year.

Partitioning and fitting out works for the new Administrative Headquarters, located at 376-384 William Street, are nearing completion and it is expected that the Police will occupy the building this financial year. This will greatly facilitate the expansion of operational facilities at Russell Street where conversion works are expected to be completed this financial year.

Major new works commencing in 1977-78 are the 24-hour Police Stations and District Headquarters at Horsham and Altona North, which are estimated to cost \$1.1 Million and \$1.3 Million respectively.

High priority is given to the improvement of communications and information systems, and planning is under way for the new P.A.B.X. system at Russell Street which will replace the present obsolete system.

Other major new works to be commenced in 1977-78 are—

	\$'000
Colac—extensions to offices, new cells	560,000
Drouin—residential Police Station	235,000
Mallacoota—residential Police Station	157,000
Pyalong—residential Police Station	157,000
Old Ballarat Police Station—Renovations	118,000

ITEM 6 (PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE—\$300,000).

The Public Record Office of Victoria was established within the Chief Secretary's Department following the passing of the *Public Records Act* 1973. In 1975 a building at Cherry Lane, Laverton, was purchased at a cost of \$1.91 Million for use as a Public Record Office and archival store.

Adaptations to this building, which is now fully operational, have proceeded since that time and an amount of \$573,000 has been spent to 30th June, 1977, on the installation of compactus storage units, the fitting out of the public reference area and offices, provision of equipment for the storage of computer tapes and other minor works.

The 1977-78 allocation of \$479,000 includes provision for the installation of further compactus units to house future intakes of records.

Planning is also proceeding for the extension of the mezzanine floor across the entire length of the building. This extension will be required to enable additional storage units to be installed over the next few years to cope with the intake of records.

ITEM 8 (STATE LIBRARY—\$900,000).

An amount of \$813,000 has been provided in the 1977-78 Works Program for capital works associated with the State Library, Latrobe Library, Science Museum and National Museum. This represents an increase of 70 per cent. on expenditure of \$478,499 in 1976-77.

The elements of the 1977-78 Works Program for this Item are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Latrobe Library—Cladding	168	168
Swanston Street, West Facade—Stonework	145	78
North-West Wing—Ceiling Works	193	105
Telephone Switchboard—Replacement	78	78
Roof Skylights—Replacement	134	39
Storage Cabinets and Shelving	67	67
Cataloging Services—Relocation and Renovations	43	43
Minor Works .. .. .	..	235
		<hr/> 813 <hr/>

ITEM 10 (SOCIAL WELFARE—FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION—\$1,500,000).

An amount of \$859,000 has been allocated in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for capital expenditure by the Family Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Department.

The major works which will commence or proceed in 1977-78 are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
New Family Group Homes	295	295
Allambie—Stage IA, Administration	589	70
Allambie—Stage IB	148	112
Mildura—New Reception Centre	247	56
Minor Works .. .. .	..	326
		<hr/> 859 <hr/>

At Allambie, works are continuing to enable the Centre to cope more efficiently with the care of large numbers of young children pending longer term placement. Stage B, which will commence this year, will include an accommodation unit for adoptive couples being introduced to their new child, and for country parents who might otherwise be unable to visit their children in care.

A further five Family Group Homes will be provided during 1977-78, each catering for four to six children, living in a family environment. High priority will be given to the establishment of such homes in the Upper Murray region and in the Western Suburbs area.

Work will also commence on the construction of a new Reception Centre at Mildura to provide more appropriate accommodation for the existing service.

ITEM 11 (SOCIAL WELFARE—YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION—\$1,500,000).

The allocation for the Youth Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Department from the Works and Services Account in 1977-78 is \$965,000.

The major projects for which funds have been allocated are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Malmsbury—Alterations to Dormitories	297	284
Winlaton—Conversion and development works	157	137
Carlton—Adaptation	119	56
Ascot Vale Hostel—Adaptation Works	442	46
Turana—New Administrative Block	545	46
Minor Works .. .. .	..	396
		<hr/> 965 <hr/>

The allocation for the Malmsbury Youth Training Centre will enable work to be completed on the division of two dormitories into separate sections to permit grouping of trainees into smaller groups for differential treatment purposes.

At Winlaton Youth Training Centre, Stage I of the conversion and development works, which commenced in 1976-77, will also be completed. This will enable the division of each of three sections at the Centre into two parts to facilitate smaller groupings for differential treatment purposes and will provide an indoor activities area.

Work will commence this year on the renovation of several terrace houses in Carlton as the next stage in the development of a one acre block for Departmental and community services. These buildings will function as an area for employment services, education and activities centre and an emergency accommodation programme. The overall plan extends to the possible renovation of a two storey shop building.

ITEM 12 (SOCIAL WELFARE—CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION—\$5,000,000).

An amount of \$2,528,000 has been allocated to the Correctional Services Division of the Social Welfare Department in 1977-78. This represents an increase of \$1,134,000 or 81 per cent over expenditure in 1976-77.

Works for which funds have been allocated in the 1977-78 financial year are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Pentridge—Construction of High Security Unit	4,500	224
Pentridge—“ J ” Division Conversion	560	224
Country Prisons—Improved Security Measures	190	190
Pentridge—Number Plate Industry—Adaptations	267	267
Pentridge—Security Improvements	344	329
Pentridge—Administration Block Remodelling	410	168
Geelong—Portable Unit for Clothing Industry	163	85
Minor Works .. .. .	..	1,041
		<hr/> 2,528 <hr/>

New major works to be commenced at Pentridge this year include the conversion of two “ J ” Division dormitories into twenty single cells to provide accommodation for young offenders who are not suited to placement in dormitories and the construction of a high security unit to house 54 prisoners. This unit will provide accommodation for prisoners considered to be potential high-risk escapees, or who are in need of protection from other prisoners. Adequate recreational and employment space will be provided, together with an area for visits.

A total of \$519,000 has been allocated for improved prison security measures, with extensive electronic detection equipment being provided at Pentridge, Geelong, Beechworth and Ararat. New emergency lighting equipment and portable radio units are also being provided at Pentridge.

To facilitate the manufacture of new “ Garden State ” number plates, extensive renovations are being made to the number plate factory at Pentridge and new equipment and machinery is being supplied.

Design work will proceed on a new high security unit at Castlemaine Prison, on workshops for various Pentridge industries and on the upgrading of prisoner facilities at Fairlea.

ITEM 13 (SOCIAL WELFARE—TRAINING, PROBATION AND PAROLE DIVISION—\$500,000).

This year \$391,000 has been allocated for the Training Division of the Social Welfare Department. This is more than double the expenditure in 1976-77.

This allocation provides for the following—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Institute of Training, Watsonia—Purchase Payment	1,158	187
Institute of Training, Watsonia—New Boiler House	95	95
Institute of Training, Watsonia—Renewal of Fire Services	56	40
Minor Works .. .. .	..	69
		<hr/> 391 <hr/>

ITEM 15 (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT—\$5,000,000).

An amount of \$3,665,000 has been allocated for the 1977-78 Program of the Attorney-General's Department.

The approved program comprises :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Prahran—New Court House	1,435	569
Heidelberg—New Court House	1,112	1,034
Supreme Court Accommodation	2,711	473
Moe—Court House and Typing Pool Accommodation	1,120	112
Werribee—New Court House	1,120	112
Nubrik House—Accommodation for Prosecutors	225	225
County Court Building—Alterations to second floor	450	56
Minor Works .. .. .	..	1,084
		<hr/> 3,665 <hr/>

The new Prahran Court House on the Corner of Malvern Road and Francis Street is part of a joint Law/Police Complex. It will include five court rooms, offices and associated public areas and is planned for occupation in late 1977.

The Heidelberg Court House which is planned for occupation in early 1978 will replace the existing eighty year old Court Building with three Magistrate's Court Rooms and associated facilities.

Extensive alterations and renovations have been completed to the former Crown Law Offices building at 459 Lonsdale Street to provide additional Supreme Court accommodation. This includes five new Court rooms, six Judges' Chambers, public waiting rooms and interview rooms.

It is planned to call tenders on the new Court House and Office at Moe late in 1977. The building will comprise three Court rooms with associated facilities and will provide accommodation for a typing pool of some 24 typists.

Tenders will be called in October 1977 to construct a new Magistrate's Court at Werribee. For many years proceedings have been conducted in rented accommodation but with increasing use this is now inadequate.

Projects to commence at Nubrik House and the County Court Buildings will provide new accommodation for Prosecutors, additional Courts and Judges Chambers for the County Court in Melbourne, and improved accommodation for the Registrar of Probates, the Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board and the Metropolitan Fair Rents Board. Accommodation will also be provided for the Taxation Board of Review.

ITEM 17 (GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE—\$600,000).

An amount of \$256,000 has been allocated in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for expenditure at the Government Printing Office at North Melbourne.

\$200,000 has been allocated for expenditure on the purchase of new machinery and equipment and items of obsolete printing equipment will be replaced with modern and more efficient units.

\$56,000 has been provided for minor building and renovation works during the year.

ITEM 19 (CONSERVATION—SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—\$100,000).

An allocation of \$39,000 has been made in 1977-78 for expenditure by the Public Works Department on offices and residences for the Soil Conservation Authority.

This expenditure covers the construction and completion of new buildings as well as renovations and minor works on existing buildings.

Other expenditure by the Authority or under its supervision is provided for under Items 121 and 122 of the Schedule.

ITEM 20 (CONSERVATION—FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DIVISION—\$900,000).

The Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Conservation has been allocated \$645,000 in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program.

The major elements of this allocation are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Purchase of Large Enforcement Patrol Vessel	200	200
Purchase of three Medium-size Vessels	75	75
Arthur Rylah Research Institute—Safety Requirements	131	75
Equipment Purchases	78	78
Minor Works .. .. .	..	217
		<hr/>
		645
		<hr/>

Tenders will be called shortly for the construction of a fully equipped 55-foot Enforcement Vessel which will assist in law enforcement in the deeper, more distant and previously uncontrolled waters off the Victorian Coast.

The allocation for three 23-foot " Sharkcat " patrol boats will lift the number of this type of vessel operated by the Division to five. The additional vessels, which have the advantage of high speed for enforcement and inspection duties will be situated at Portland, Cowes and Lakes Entrance.

ITEM 21 (CONSERVATION—ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY—\$1,200,000).

An allocation of \$756,000 is provided from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Environment Protection Authority and its delegated agencies during 1977-78. This represents an increase of \$295,000, or 64 per cent higher than the actual expenditure in 1976-77.

The main reasons for this relatively large increase in the Program are as follows :—

- (a) \$560,000 has been provided to complete the new motor vehicle emission and noise testing station at Altona. This building will provide facilities to test vehicles and to enforce motor vehicle emission and noise regulations.
- (b) \$195,000 has been allocated for the purchase of air, water and soil testing equipment and for expenditure by the Delegated Agencies of the Environment Protection Authority.

ITEM 22 (CONSERVATION—OTHER INCLUDING VICTORIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY—\$100,000).

\$49,000 has been allocated in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for expenditure under this Item.

The specific projects upon which funds will be expended are :—

	\$'000
Nyerimilang Homestead—External Renovations	10
Keilor Interpretative Centre—Bridge, Car Park, Toilets	22
Fencing of Archaeological Sites	17
	<hr/>
	49
	<hr/>

ITEM 27 (BOTANIC GARDENS—\$400,000).

\$231,000 has been allocated this year for work at the Royal Botanic Gardens and its annexe at Cranbourne. Allocations have been made for the following projects :—

	1977-78 Allocation.
	\$'000
Cranbourne Annexe—Gardener/Caretaker's Residence	45
Cranbourne Annexe—Development of Water Supply	20
Royal Botanic Gardens—Repair of Lake Walls	25
Royal Botanic Gardens—minor works including work on shelter sheds, Herbarium, Kiosk, etc.	141
	<hr/>
	231
	<hr/>

The Cranbourne Annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens is being developed as formal or semi-formal native landscape gardens and natural heath lands. In the past twelve months some 1,000 plants have been planted on the Western and Northern Boundaries of the Annexe.

Design development is proceeding on the new Herbarium building which will be constructed in Birdwood Avenue.

ITEM 29 (PUBLIC BUILDINGS—\$18,000,000).

An amount of \$12,853,000 has been allocated from the Works and Services Account this financial year for the construction, purchase and other expenditure on public buildings and residences. The appropriation covers projects under the control of the Public Works Department and now provides for contributions to the Public Offices Fund under the control of the Victorian Public Offices Corporation to supplement funds available to the Corporation from other sources, including borrowings.

The bulk of the expenditure this financial year relates to projects which were commenced or purchased last financial year. These include the purchase and fitting out of the new Head Office for the Forests Commission at 601 Bourke Street, completion of the Victorian Government Pavilion at the Showgrounds, renovations and public facilities at Werribee Park and payments relating to the purchase of the Windsor Hotel.

A new office block is being purchased at Mildura for the accommodation of a number of Departments providing services to that area.

In addition to the projects being currently financed from the Works and Services Account, the Victorian Public Offices Corporation is constructing the new State public office block at Geelong at an estimated cost of \$8 Million. The Corporation is also planning to construct new offices at Ballarat and Bendigo.

Some of the larger allocations approved from the Works and Services Account in 1977-78 are as follows :—

	\$'000's
Renovations—295 Queen Street (Government Statist.)	224
Fitting out and Purchase of 601 Bourke Street (Forests)	1,829
Mildura Public Offices	714
Showgrounds—Government Exhibition Centre	264
Windsor Hotel	2,481
Werribee Park—Renovations and public facilities.. .. .	350

The Ministry of Housing and the Housing Commission are moving to new accommodation at 250 Elizabeth Street. Costs of adaptation works are being met from the Works and Services Account, but the cost of works relating to the Housing Commission requirements will be recouped from the Commission.

ITEM 31 (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BRANCH—\$100,000).

\$80,000 has been provided in 1977-78 for expenditure by the Weights and Measures Branch of the Local Government Department.

This allocation will be spent on the replacement of vehicles, the provision of testing equipment and the metrication of platform weighing machines.

ITEM 32 (MINERALS AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT—\$1,000,000).

On 1st September, 1977, the Mines Department and the Ministry of Fuel and Power were amalgamated into the Department of Minerals and Energy in accordance with the provisions of the *Minerals and Energy Act 1976*.

An allocation of \$447,000 has been made for expenditure by the Department of Minerals and Energy in 1977-78 on the purchase of geological and other equipment and minor works. These items were previously included in the Works and Services program of the Mines Department.

ITEM 33 (EXPLOSIVES BRANCH—\$40,000).

This Item provides authority for expenditure on explosives testing equipment and minor works required by the Explosives Branch of the Department of Minerals and Energy. An allocation of \$15,000 has been made to meet requirements in 1977-78.

ITEM 35 (AGRICULTURE—GENERAL—\$750,000).

An amount of \$461,000 has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture in the 1977-78 Works Program to meet expenditure associated with the Department's accommodation.

The Government has purchased a property at 166 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, to provide additional accommodation for the Department of Agriculture and to allow consolidation of certain branches of the Department, which were previously housed in various locations around the City.

This year's allocation will cover the completion of a new telephone switchboard installation and the Department's partitioning and furniture requirements.

ITEM 36 (AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—\$600,000).

An amount of \$432,000 has been allocated in 1977-78 for expenditure on Agricultural Education.

Of this, \$137,000 has been allocated for the water supply to Dookie College from the Broken River. \$128,000 will be spent on minor works at the Glenormiston, Burnley, Dookie and Longerenong Colleges and two special allocations of \$56,000 have been provided for renovations at Burnley College and special maintenance work at Longerenong.

Planning is continuing on the construction of a building to accommodate the McMillan Rural Studies Centre which is to be established close to Warragul.

ITEM 37 (AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH FARMS AND STATIONS—\$2,000,000).

Provision has been made under this Item for expenditure by the Department of Agriculture on research farms and stations. The estimated expenditure in 1977-78 is \$1,317,000.

This allocation includes \$112,000 for the construction of a new Virus Isolation Unit at Attwood, \$290,000 on purchases of plant and equipment, \$78,000 for the replacement of a P.A.B.X. telephone installation at Burnley, \$86,000 towards the completion of the Bairnsdale and Benalla Veterinary Research Laboratories and \$58,000 towards the new surgery and milking machine centre at the Werribee Research Station.

An allocation of \$54,000 has been made for the Administration and Laboratory buildings at Scoresby and \$639,000 has been provided for minor works at Stations generally throughout the State.

ITEM 40 (GENERAL HEALTH, INCLUDING SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE—\$1,700,000).

An amount of \$810,000 has been allocated this financial year for expenditure by the Health Department on General Health services. This allocation is made up as follows :—

	\$'000
Pentridge—New Hospital	168
School Dental Service—State contribution towards capital projects	280
Community Health Program—State contribution towards projects conducted by Health Department	200
Other works and equipment	162
	<hr/>
	810
	<hr/>

It is planned to let a tender for the new Hospital at Pentridge early in 1978. The Hospital is estimated to cost \$2.8 Million and will comprise a two-storey building providing initially 20 beds and outpatient services and facilities for doctors, dentists, chiropodists, X-ray and minor medical treatment. Surgery will continue to be undertaken at St. Vincent's Hospital.

As indicated by the Treasurer in the Budget Speech the Commonwealth Government has reduced its commitment under the cost-sharing arrangements for School Dental Services. Whilst existing capital commitments will be shared on the previously established 90 per cent Commonwealth/10 per cent State basis, new works will be shared on a 75 per cent/25 per cent basis. Capital funds are being utilized to establish concrete platforms as sites for mobile dental clinics in smaller schools, and to establish permanent clinics in larger schools.

The allocation for Community Health covers the State share of that element of the Community Health capital program conducted by the Health Department. Further allocations for Community Health are made under Item 44—Mental Health and Item 181—Hospitals and Charities Commission. Under this Program the Commonwealth has again changed the basis of funding—with the State now being required to meet 50 per cent of the cost of new capital projects compared with 25 per cent under the previous basis.

ITEM 41 (BUSH NURSING HOSPITALS—\$1,300,000).

This Item provides authority for the payment of capital grants to Committees of Management of Bush Nursing Hospitals on a \$3 : \$1 basis.

During 1976–77 grants totalling \$793,000 were paid to 29 Hospitals.

The allocation from the 1977–78 Works and Services Program is \$800,000. Hospitals to receive grants for major projects include :—

Ballan : Completion of program for the provision of additional six beds with ancillary services and a treatment room for outpatients at a total cost of \$200,000.

Hopetoun : Completion of renovation and extensions to present buildings, including the Nurses Home and domestic quarters, at a total cost of \$520,000.

Nagambie : Completion of the modernization program commenced in 1976–77 at a total cost of \$465,000.

Yarra Junction (Upper Yarra) : Alterations to the Nurses Home and renovations to Kitchen and boiler room will be completed at a total cost of \$132,000. Construction will also commence on a new theatre/labour ward, outpatients, consulting room/X-ray wing and on the remodelling of nursery and toilet blocks at a total cost, over two years, of \$200,000.

Toora : The first stage of a rebuilding program to increase the number of beds from 10 to 12 and to provide a new kitchen, staff dining room, X-ray room, waiting and sitting room with renovations to the nursery and nurses station at a cost of \$300,000.

Murchison : First stage of modernization works to cost \$66,000.

Murrayville : Extensions to patients toilet block and day room at a cost of \$52,000.

ITEM 42 (CANCER INSTITUTE—\$6,000,000).

An allocation of \$3 Million has been provided for the Cancer Institute in 1977-78. This allocation provides for the payment of \$2.5 Million as the balance of expenditure on the first phase of Stage I of the major redevelopment of the Cancer Institute. This part of the project has now been completed at a cost of \$18 Million.

Plans are ready to proceed, as funds become available, with the second phase of this redevelopment on completion of which the Peter MacCallum Hospital will have a total of 300 inpatient beds, eight megavoltage treatment units, four operating theatres and appropriate outpatient clinics.

ITEM 43 (SANATORIA—\$100,000).

An allocation of \$56,000 has been provided for minor works at the Heatherton Sanatorium in 1977-78.

Major renovations were completed during the last financial year, together with the provision of a new gas main and heaters.

Until 31st December, 1976, the Commonwealth Government reimbursed the State for expenditure at the Heatherton Sanatorium under its Tuberculosis Control program. Appropriate Items of expenditure at the Sanatorium will now attract Commonwealth support on a \$1 for \$1 basis under the General Hospital Cost-Sharing Arrangements.

ITEM 44 (MENTAL HEALTH—\$16,000,000).

Expenditure under this Item in 1977-78 comprises the following elements :—

	1977-78 <i>Allocation.</i>
	\$'000
Mental Health Authority—Works Program	11,458
Community Health—State Expenditure on Mental Health Projects ..	100
“ Minus Children’s ” Project, Kew Cottages	115
	<hr/>
	11,673
	<hr/>

The contribution from the Works and Services Program to Mental Health Authority capital expenditure is supplemented by funds made available by the Commonwealth Government under the Hospitals Development Program. A comparison of the total funding from these sources in 1976-77 and 1977-78 is as follows :—

	<i>Actual</i> 1976-77.	1977-78 <i>Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
State Works and Services Program	9,959	11,458
Commonwealth Hospitals Development Program	500	1,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,459	12,458
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Projects towards which funds have been allocated in the current financial year are :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Beechworth—Construction and renovation of Wards ..	4,700	707
Mont Park/Plenty—Improved Food System	2,100	1,493
Loddon/Campaspe—Regional Services for the Retarded ..	3,300	336
Larundel—Remodelling of Wards	584	584
Footscray Psychiatric Centre—Alterations, Siteworks, etc. ..	4,400	290
Warrnambool—Admission Unit	2,000	584
Geelong Psychiatric Hospital—Construction	4,700	2,300
Kew Cottages—Replacement of Ward 25	670	560
Ararat—Construction of Nurses School	320	276
Royal Park—Construction of Admission Unit	2,250	56
Mildura—Construction of Admission Unit	1,450	280
Larundel—Conversion of Hostel to Nurses School	250	220
Other Projects and Minor Works.. ..	..	4,772
		<hr/> 12,458 <hr/>

As indicated under Item 40, from the commencement of the current financial year the cost-sharing of new capital projects under the Community Health Program will be on a 50/50 basis, with existing projects being funded on the previous basis of 75 per cent Commonwealth to 25 per cent State.

In addition to the above expenditure, an amount of \$31,000 has been appropriated under Item 186 of this Bill to cover the balance of the State's \$1.1 Million matching commitment on the "Minus Children's" Project at the Kew Cottages.

ITEM 45 (ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCY SERVICES—\$350,000).

An allocation of \$266,000 has been provided for capital works required by the Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Branch of the Health Department in 1977-78.

This comprises :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Gresswell—Remodelling of Wards	500	60
Purchase of Equipment	35	35
Gresswell—P.A.B.X. Installation	66	30
Minor Works .. ..	..	141
		<hr/> 266 <hr/>

ITEM 47 (STATE DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION, INCLUDING MINISTRY OF TOURISM—\$250,000).

An amount of \$91,000 has been allocated in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for expenditure under this Item. Allocations of funds have been made for :—

	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
Tourist Bureau, Melbourne—Remodelling and Refurbishing..	392	34
Tourist Bureau, Geelong—Adaptations, etc.	48	48
Minor Works	9	9
		<hr/> 91

A major redesign of the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau in Collins Street, Melbourne, will significantly improve the standard of facilities available for handling enquiries and bookings for the public.

Funds have been allocated for the renovation and refitting of the Tourist Bureau Office in Little Malop Street, Geelong.

ITEM 50 (ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING—\$5,000,000).

An amount of \$3.1 Million is allocated from the Works and Services Account for the purchase of computer and related equipment and development of new computer systems. This allocation provides for the purchase of computers and peripheral equipment and the costs related to development of computer systems including staff costs and payments to consultants.

Detailed allocations for 1977-78 are :—

	<i>Total Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Allocation.</i>
	\$'000	\$'000
1. Computer hardware and peripheral equipment for the Public Service Board E.D.P. Bureau	1,750	750
2. Land Tax—to cover the design and implementation of computer processing in the Land Tax Office, including the maintenance of the land record data base and the issue of land tax assessment notices	750	185
3. Valuer-General—to provide an improved land record data base for the provision of information for valuation purposes	31	31
4. Public Works Department—the development of a Property and Buildings system for the physical and financial control of the construction and maintenance activities of the Department	1,000	749
5. Education Department—the development of a completely integrated computer system for the personnel, property, accounting and stores functions of the Department ..	2,000	1,100
6. Water Quality Control—this system is designed to provide a data base of water quality control factors which will be available to a number of Departments and semi-Government authorities	155	155
7. Public Service Board—the personnel system to be developed will provide an on-line data base containing personnel and establishment records for the purpose of improved personnel management within the Public Service ..	200	130
		<hr/> 3,100

ITEM 51 (ADVANCES TO PUBLIC OFFICERS FOR PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR OFFICIAL DUTIES—\$50,000).

\$40,000 has been allocated in 1977-78 for the purpose of making short-term loans to officers towards the purchase of new motor vehicles in cases where the officer is required to use his private car for official travel to the extent of at least 5,000 kilometres per year.

ITEM 61 (COUNTRY ART GALLERIES—\$150,000).

An amount of \$70,000 has been provided in 1977-78 for Capital Grants to Country Art Galleries to assist approved projects for the construction and improvement of art gallery buildings in country towns where there are substantial art collections.

Grants are made on a \$2 : \$1 matching basis with a ceiling determined for each project. In the past five years grants totalling \$704,000 have been made to assist country galleries under these established arrangements.

ITEM 62 (VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE—\$18,000,000).

The allocation to the Victorian Arts Centre for the 1977-78 financial year is \$12.5 million.

Significant progress has been made on the construction of the Theatres and Concert Hall of the Centre. During 1976-77, the structure to support the Arts Centre Lawns over City Road was completed, as was the excavation of the Melbourne Concert Hall site, adjacent to the Yarra River.

A contract for \$21 Million for completion of the Melbourne Concert Hall was awarded recently and work on this important addition to the State's facilities for the Arts has now begun.

The foundations of the large Theatre Complex are nearing completion and the reinforced concrete structure of this building has reached the fifth level over part of the site.

Planning is proceeding for the letting of the next major contract for the completion of the Theatres.

ITEM 63 (PERFORMING AND OTHER ARTS—\$2,000,000).

Expenditure on projects covered by this appropriation includes :—

- (a) grants towards approved capital projects for the performing arts.

Grants have been approved to enable work to commence in 1977-78 in centres at Ararat and Echuca. These represent the beginning of a network of Regional Performing Arts Centres and Arts Activity Centres throughout the State.

Planning is proceeding for work to start on the Geelong Performing Arts Centre in February, 1978. This will involve the construction of a new 250 seat theatre and the conversion of existing buildings to an 800 seat theatre at a cost of \$5.2 Million. The Government has undertaken to provide \$3.9 Million towards the cost of this project, spread over several years.

- (b) a grant to the University of Melbourne for the purchase and renovation of the Nathan Blight Building in South Melbourne for use by the Melbourne Theatre Company as a workshop and training centre. The appropriation covers purchase instalments totalling \$409,000 and renovations of \$80,000.
- (c) purchase and adaptation of the Metropolitan Meat Market in Blackwood Street, North Melbourne for use as a crafts centre.
- (d) renovations and adaptations to the Playbox Theatre (\$5,000) and the Tapestry Workshop (\$5,000).

ITEM 64 (ARTS FUND—VICTORIAN FILM CORPORATION—\$2,000,000).

The Victorian Film Corporation, now in its second financial year, was established by the Government to encourage and support the production of film and television in Victoria.

An amount of \$574,000 was expended in 1976-77 on the production of such programs as feature films, documentaries, children's films and television programs.

An amount of \$1.6 Million will be provided in 1977-78 from the Works and Services Account to enable the Corporation to continue assistance to this valuable industry. The allocation includes \$400,000 specially earmarked for film making by Government Departments.

ITEM 81 (GRANTS TO WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS—\$1,000,000).

This appropriation gives authority for the payment of capital grants by the Department of Social Welfare to voluntary organizations. The 1977-78 Works and Services Account provides for the following grants :—

	\$
(a) grants to voluntary organizations, primarily towards the support of residential child care facilities	340,000
(b) \$1 : \$1 subsidy to voluntary organizations for Family Group Homes. (These funds are additional to the allocation under Item 10 of the Schedule, for the purchase or construction of Family Group Homes by the Department itself.)	435,000

ITEM 82 (YOUTH HOSTELS—\$100,000).

The 1977-78 Works and Services allocation provides an amount of \$30,000 for subsidies to voluntary organizations which provide youth hostels to accommodate wards of the State, probationers and other young persons who, having been in remand or youth training centres, require special care and supervision.

ITEM 91 (TEACHER HOUSING AUTHORITY—\$4,500,000).

This Item provides authority for the payment of advances and grants towards the capital and maintenance programs of the Teacher Housing Authority.

The Government provides direct assistance for the Authority through a special grant for maintenance works and by way of loan advances for capital works which carry a concessional interest rate of 3 per cent per annum.

The total provision from the Works and Services Account in 1977-78 is \$3,800,000, comprising \$650,000 by way of special grant for maintenance works and \$3,150,000 of advances for capital works. In addition, the Authority has a borrowing authority of up to \$1,000,000 available under the Local Government Program.

ITEM 101 (GRANT TO ALEXANDER MILLER MEMORIAL HOMES—\$45,000).

In November, 1974, the Government approved the payment of grants over a further five year period to the Trustees of the Alexander Miller Memorial Homes for the renovation and modernization of Elderly Persons Units in Euroa, Geelong and Castlemaine. The allocation in 1977-78 for this purpose is again \$45,000.

ITEM 102 (INSTALLATION OF BOOM BARRIERS—\$200,000).

Boom barriers are being provided as part of a continuing program to upgrade road/rail level crossings by the elimination of Railway gates.

The Government provides two-thirds of the cost involved and the balance is met by local Councils.

An amount of \$100,000 will be made available this financial year to cover commitments for the installation of boom barriers.

ITEM 103 (GRANT TO GEELONG AND WESTERN DISTRICT LADIES BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION—\$9,000).

In October, 1975, the Government approved a grant of \$27,000 to the Geelong and Western District Ladies Benevolent Association, to be paid over three years, for essential maintenance and improvement works to the elderly citizens homes in Geelong. The amount of \$9,000 in 1977-78 represents the final payment of this grant.

ITEM 104 (EXPENDITURE IN CONNEXION WITH METRIC CONVERSION—\$750,000).

An allocation of \$550,000 has been made in 1977-78 for expenditure in connection with metric conversion. The allocation will be directed towards the cost of conversion for Government Departments that are financed through the Consolidated Fund.

ITEM 121 (SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—WORKS—\$1,200,000).

ITEM 122 (SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—GRANTS, LOANS, &c.—\$250,000).

Items 121 and 122 provide for expenditure by the Soil Conservation Authority within the terms of its statutory functions.

An amount of \$935,000 has been allocated for works to be undertaken under Item 121. Details of this allocation are :—

1. An amount of \$300,000 towards the continuing program of soil conservation and control measures necessary to protect and ensure catchment stability and water quality in domestic and irrigation water supply catchments. Funds have been allocated for the Eildon, Parwan, Cairn Curran and Wimmera Catchments and include an amount of \$100,000 for investigations and works in the Yarra Catchment above the Yering Gorge offtake to Sugarloaf Reservoir.
2. An amount of \$585,000 for other group conservation schemes operated in co-operation with landholders in badly eroded areas of the State. Special provision has been made for works in the Whiteheads Creek Catchment and in the Glenelg Catchment.
3. An amount of \$50,000 has been provided for purchases of plant and machinery and for Farm Water Supply Advisory Services.

A total of \$195,000 has been allocated in 1977-78 for grants and loans under Item 122. Of this amount, \$100,000 is provided for assistance on a \$1 for \$1 basis to individual landholders towards the cost of approved erosion control works and \$95,000 is provided for subsidies on a \$5 for \$1 basis to Foreshore Committees of Management and Municipal Councils for foreshore erosion control works.

ITEM 123 (NATIONAL PARKS—\$2,800,000).

The contribution from the Works and Services Account to the National Parks Fund in 1977-78 is \$2,250,000 made up as follows :—

	1977-78 Allocation.
	\$
(a) General works in National Parks	845,000
(b) Fire protection of parks	225,000
(c) Housing for Park Rangers	390,000
(d) Initial development of new parks	380,000
(e) Rehabilitation of Tidal River camping area at Wilsons Promontory National Park	160,000
(f) Land reclamation and other works at Cape Schanck National Park	100,000
(g) Other Minor Works	150,000
	2,250,000

The above allocation supplements the contribution to the fund of \$2,490,300 provided through the Current Account of the Budget and the estimated revenue of \$750,000 expected to be collected from visitors to National Parks throughout the State during the year.

The allocation for the rehabilitation of the Tidal River camping area is to improve the facilities available for campers at Wilsons Promontory, including sewerage, water supply and drainage works.

A special works program is planned for the back beaches of the Mornington Peninsula. Works will include bulldozing, fencing, marram grass planting, construction of walk ways and car parking facilities. These areas have a very heavy usage and the proposed works will assist in preserving this valuable natural resource.

ITEM 124 (GRANTS AND LOANS TO THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)—\$550,000).

Annual preservation grants have been made since 1971-72 to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) towards its continuing program of restoration of buildings throughout Victoria, and a further allocation of \$50,000 has been made in 1977-78.

The Trust is also sponsoring an appeal for the costs of relocating St. Mary's Church of England, Bulla, and the Government has approved a grant on a \$1 for \$1 basis, up to a maximum of \$4,150 towards the appeal.

The Government will again make a contribution towards the cost of the restoration of the sailing ship "Polly Woodside".

ITEM 125 (ZOOLOGICAL BOARD—\$500,000).

An amount of \$370,000 has been allocated to the Zoological Board of Victoria for 1977-78. This allocation covers :—

	\$
(a) A special grant towards the construction of a Great Flight Aviary and two residences at Parkville	148,000
(b) The annual provision for works and development at Parkville ; being made available on a one-third loan and two-thirds grant basis	120,000
(c) A grant to assist the Board with the development of the Fauna Park at Werribee	102,000

ITEM 131 (RURAL FINANCE AND SETTLEMENT COMMISSION—AGENCY DEPARTMENT—\$6,000,000).

This Item makes provision for expenditure by the Agency Department of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission in accordance with directions given by the Treasurer, pursuant to Section 35 of the *Rural Finance Act* 1958, No. 6360.

Provision for expenditure in 1977-78 includes :—

	\$'000
1. The State's share, on a \$1 for \$1 basis with the Commonwealth, of loans to specialist beef producers for carry-on purposes under the Rural Adjustment Scheme	750
2. Carry-on loans to dairy farmers under matching arrangements with the Commonwealth under the Rural Adjustment Program	250
3. Loans to farmers for farm water conservation projects approved by the Soil Conservation Authority	250
4. For General Agency purposes to assist primary producers and country industries affected by natural disasters or other special circumstances, including loans for carry-on purposes and the restoration of assets	325

ITEM 132 (SURVEY EQUIPMENT, ETC., DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY—\$300,000).

An amount of \$250,000 has been allocated from the Works and Services Account in the current financial year for expenditure by the Survey and Mapping Division of the Department of Crown Lands and Survey on purchases and replacement of equipment.

The functions of this Division embrace :—

- (a) Geodetic and co-ordination surveys to provide basic control for mapping, cadastral and engineering purposes.
- (b) Title surveys for Crown Grant, Crown Lease and like purposes.
- (c) Mapping, photogrammetric, draughting, aerial survey and photographic services for Departments and Authorities, and,
- (d) The management and operations of the Central Microfilm Bureau.

ITEM 133 (BUCHAN CAVES—\$60,000).

An allocation of \$30,000 has been approved in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for works at the Buchan Caves.

The Reserve Management Committee will use these funds to update the sewerage waste disposal system and to complete the toilet block in the Northern camping area.

ITEM 134 (ROAD CONSTRUCTION—CROWN LANDS—\$15,000).

This Item makes provision for meeting the costs of road construction required to provide adequate access to certain country land made available from time to time under Improvement Purchase Leases. The amounts involved are eventually recouped. The estimated requirement in 1977-78 is \$3,000.

ITEM 135 (PURCHASE OF LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CROWN LAND—\$7,000,000).

Provision is made under this Item for the purchase of land for public purposes and for expenditure on improving and developing Crown Land which is not covered by specific appropriations for Departments and purposes listed elsewhere in the Table incorporated in the Bill.

Payments connected with the following major purchases will be met from this appropriation in 1977-78 :—

- (a) Yellingbo Fauna Reserve.
- (b) Part of Coolart Estate, Balnarring.
- (c) Land at Mallacoota Inlet.
- (d) Land at Highett being purchased from the Gas and Fuel Corporation.
- (e) Purchases for conservation purposes in the Dandenongs and on the Mornington Peninsula.
- (f) Contribution towards the purchase of land in Berringa Road, Doncaster, known as Domeney Reserve.

Assistance to Committees of Management of Crown reservations for expenditure on landscaping, drainage and rehabilitation of degraded land is also provided under this Item.

ITEM 141 (PIERS, WHARVES, JETTIES, HARBORS, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, AND FLOATING DRY DOCK—\$1,500,000).

An allocation of \$1,230,000 has been made from the Works and Services Account in 1977-78 for expenditure by the Public Works Department on Piers, Wharves, Jetties, Harbors, Navigational Aids and Floating Dry Dock. The works program to be undertaken this year includes :—

- (a) Continuation of the reconstruction of St. Kilda Pier. The timber head is now being reconstructed and the old jetty is being removed. An allocation of \$73,000 is provided this year.
- (b) Stage I of the reconstruction of Middle Brighton Jetty. The timber Jetty, which has been in use for over sixty years, has deteriorated to the stage where reconstruction is more economical than continual repair. The new structure, construction of which will be phased over four years, will be of reinforced concrete with two low landings.

- (c) A start on the construction of steel sheeting walls to replace the worn timber walling along the lower reaches of Mordialloc Creek. This Creek provides one of the best small boat havens on the Eastern shores of Port Phillip.
- (d) A grant to the Geelong Harbor Trust towards the reconstruction of the Bellarine Street Jetty.
- (e) Continuing works at Port Welshpool, Tankerton, Portarlington, Queenscliffe, Apollo Bay and Lakes Entrance.

ITEM 142 (FORESHORE PROTECTION WORKS—\$1,500,000).

An amount of \$1,260,000 has been allocated for works expenditure on Foreshore Protection by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department in 1977-78.

\$465,000 will be expended on improving foreshores in the Metropolitan area, including a final payment on the beach restoration and construction project at Mentone. The next major scheme will be at Aspendale.

A new scheme of beach renourishment and extension will be commenced at Rye before the summer season and \$56,000 has been provided for this work.

Other works to be carried out within the allocation for this Item include the purchase of equipment for the Port Phillip Coastal Study, the commencement of a rock wall at Reeves Channel, Lakes Entrance, restoration to the Mitchell River Silt Jetties and protection works at Point Lonsdale.

ITEM 143 (DEPOTS, STORAGE COMPOUNDS, PLANT & C., PORTS AND HARBORS—\$500,000).

The allocation in 1977-78 for works associated with the operation and improvement of depots and laboratories maintained by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department is \$274,000.

Work will be completed this year on sewerage connections to Public Works Department residences at Queenscliffe-Point Lonsdale for which \$31,000 has been allocated.

\$45,000 has been provided to enable a start to be made on improvements to the Williamstown and Paynesville dredging depots. These depots play a vital role in maintaining dredges, workboats and other marine equipment used by the Ports and Harbors Division and the planned improvements, estimated to cost a total of \$260,000, will enable more efficient operation of the facilities.

ITEM 144 (FLOATING PLANT—PORTS AND HARBORS—\$1,500,000).

\$610,000 has been allocated in the 1977-78 Works and Services Program for expenditure on floating and marine plant required by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department.

The shallow draft dredge "April Hamer" was delivered in December 1976, and since that time has been used in improving access channels into Ports, in particular at Lakes Entrance. Additional equipment is to be purchased this year and next to enable the dredge to be used for sand renourishment projects at various beaches along coastal and bayside areas.

Two additional work barges are to be purchased for use at Westernport and on the Gippsland Lakes. These barges will be used to install and maintain various navigational aids and Jetty structures in these locations. \$156,000 is allocated for these purchases in 1977-78.

Other allocations have been provided for the purchase of equipment to be used in combating oil pollution, the purchase of spare parts for marine plant and for renewing the anchors and cables of the craft "Matthew Flinders" and "Rip".

ITEM 145 (PROVISION OF PORT FACILITIES AT WESTERNPORT—\$1,500,000).

Provision is made under this Item for expenditure on port facilities at Westernport during 1977-78 by the Ports and Harbors Division of Public Works Department.

Allocations have been made for the completion of the new Depot and Office at Stony Point, for the provision of oil pollution equipment and for the general development of Westernport facilities.

The possible construction of a terminal at Stony Point for the proposed IPEC daily return container service to Tasmania is at present under investigation,

ITEM 151 (ADVANCES TO WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES—\$250,000).

This Item covers the payment of special advances to water and sewerage authorities towards the cost of providing water, sewerage and drainage facilities for schools, mental hospitals and other public buildings in cases where the Authority does not have the capital funds to provide services to a new Government facility.

Amounts advanced under this Item are recovered from the Authority concerned at the time when the works would normally have been included in that Authority's Works Program.

ITEM 152 (SUBSIDIES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BODIES—\$12,000,000).

This Item provides for the payment of grants and subsidies to municipalities and Public Bodies which are not covered by specific appropriations listed elsewhere in the Table incorporated in this Bill.

Anticipated major payments from this appropriation during 1977-78 are as follows :—

	\$'000
Grants administered through the Local Government Department for drainage works, private street construction, beach cleaning, public halls and saleyards ..	1,900
Subsidies to municipalities towards the construction of Fire Access Roads.. ..	120
\$1 for \$1 grant to the City of Croydon towards the purchase of a property at Hull Road for use as a regional arts and crafts centre	180
\$2 for \$1 grant to the City of St. Kilda towards the demolition of the St. Kilda Seaquarium	140
Grants towards the cost of developing the South Geelong Industrial Estate and other industrial land servicing in country areas	500
Contribution to the Municipalities Assistance Fund	1,000
Loans and Grants to Alpine Resorts towards the cost of development works.. ..	320
Assistance towards the cost of Urban Renewal Schemes	200
Payments towards the construction of pedestrian overpasses	100
Payments, through the Country Roads Board, of special grants for roadworks ..	581

ITEM 153 (MUNICIPALITIES FOREST ROADS IMPROVEMENT FUND—\$150,000).

Assistance to Municipal Councils towards the improvement and protection of roads adjacent to State Forest areas, in order to facilitate the extraction of forest produce, is provided through the Municipalities Forest Roads Improvement Fund.

In February 1976 approval was given to new commitments totalling \$125,000 to Councils in order to increase the level of works. \$85,062 was claimed by Municipalities for this purpose during 1976-77. A further \$125,000 will be committed in the current financial year.

ITEM 161 (PLANNING STUDIES FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—\$750,000).

Item 161 provides the necessary appropriation to cover expenditure in connection with approved investigations relating to the establishment and implementation of Government planning policies in selected areas.

Allocations totalling \$404,000 have been provided for planning studies this year, including the Melton/Sunbury developments, the Central Business District, the Gardiners Creek Valley and Museum Station Block.

ITEM 162 (HISTORIC BUILDINGS—ASSISTANCE TO OWNERS—\$300,000).

Under Section 20 of the Historic Buildings Act No. 8569, the Minister for Planning has the authority to grant special assistance to owners of historic buildings upon the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Advisory Council in cases where the continued use of any designated building is not economically feasible and its preservation thereby endangered.

Funds may be provided in one of two ways—

- (a) to contractors to perform works supervised by the Historic Buildings Research Staff and/or Public Works Department Building Surveyors, or,
- (b) by direct grant or loans to owners, with appropriate covenants being entered into between the Minister and the owner.

The 1977-78 allocation of \$250,000 includes provision for the following major restoration projects :—

	\$
Black Rock House—grant towards purchase and restoration	24,000
Ballarat Mining Exchange—grant for re-roofing of building	35,000
Maldon—Restoration of various properties in township	50,000
D'Estaville, 7 Barry Street, Kew—Loan	20,000

ITEM 167 (SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH—\$500,000).

In May 1977, the Government announced the appointment of a top-level Committee to be known as the Victorian Solar Energy Research Committee to advise the Government on the realistic contribution which solar energy may make to the State's current and future energy requirements.

The appropriation under this Item is to cover possible expenditure on or associated with solar energy research projects approved by this Committee.

ITEM 171 (PAYMENTS TO AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL SOCIETIES—\$200,000).

Grants totalling \$130,000 will be provided in 1977-78 to Agricultural and Pastoral Societies in accordance with the Government's established policy of assisting Societies in their efforts to improve facilities at country showgrounds.

Grants towards the cost of improving toilet facilities at agricultural showgrounds are made on a \$2 : \$1 basis up to \$8,000.

Grants are made on a \$2 : \$1 basis up to \$10,000 to Societies to assist them to provide facilities for exhibiting and judging stock and for housing shearing competitions, fleece displays and arts and crafts displays.

ITEM 181 (HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES—\$42,000,000).

The Works and Services allocation for expenditure on buildings and equipment at hospitals and other charitable institutions in 1977-78 is \$34.9 Million. The main elements of this expenditure are :—

	\$'000
(a) The general allocation to the Hospitals and Charities Commission	32,000
(b) A special allocation to the Hospitals and Charities Commission for capital works associated with the extended nursing curriculum	600
(c) The matching State contribution towards the element of the Community Health Program falling within the administration of the Hospitals and Charities Commission	1,145
(d) The estimated 1977-78 State contribution towards the cost of the new Red Cross Blood Transfusion Building in City Road, South Melbourne	500
(e) Contribution to the Ballarat Children's Home Appeal	160
(f) Other payments for specific appeals, works and projects	532
	34,937

A comparison of the basic funds available through the Hospitals and Charities Commission in 1976-77 and 1977-78 is as follows :—

	<i>Actual</i> 1976-77.	1977-78 <i>Estimated.</i>	%
	\$'000	\$'000	
State—Works and Services Account	27,000	32,000	+18·5
Commonwealth—Hospitals Development Program ..	26,500	10,800	—59·3
	<u>53,500</u>	<u>42,800</u>	<u>—20·0</u>

Of the \$11·8 Million being made available by the Commonwealth Government under its Hospitals Development Program \$1 million has been allocated to the Mental Health Authority and \$10·8 Million to hospitals under the administration of the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

Hospital projects which will receive major allocations of funds from the Hospitals and Charities Commission in 1977-78 are as follows :—

	<i>Estimated</i> <i>Expenditure</i> \$ Million.
Sunshine Hospital—Commencement of Stage I.	2·3
Frankston Community Hospital—Commencement of first stage of new hospital ..	0·5
Alfred Hospital—mainly completion of new ward block	1·7
Austin Hospital—provision of wards and equipment	4·5
Dandenong Hospital—completion of South Block and Boiler facilities ..	2·4
William Angliss Hospital, Ferntree Gully—Extensions	1·0
Maroondah Hospital—Stage 3 Planning	0·6
Bundoora Geriatric—Planning	0·6
Alexander Home, Castlemaine—Extensions	1·5
Goulburn Valley—Stage 3	1·8
Ballarat Base Hospital—Extensions	0·75
Queen Victoria—Fire Precautions, Boiler etc.	0·7
Hamilton Base Hospital—South-East Wing	1·2
Queen Elizabeth Home, Ballarat—Laundry	1·5
Essendon and District Memorial Hospital—New 250 Bed General Hospital ..	1·0
Moorabbin—New Hospital Planning Fees	0·6
St. Vincent's—Security Ward	0·25

Further details on several of these projects were given by the Treasurer at Pages 16 and 17 of the 1977-78 Budget Speech.

Item 181 also seeks Parliamentary Authority for the State Government's 50 per cent matching share towards the cost of a new \$2·05 Million building to be constructed in City Road, South Melbourne for the Victorian Headquarters of the Australian Red Cross Society blood transfusion service. The balance is being funded by the Commonwealth Government under its Blood Transfusion Services Assistance Program. It is expected that work will commence on this project shortly.

Under the Community Health Program, the State provides funds on a matching basis towards the capital costs of projects approved by the Commonwealth Government. The State contribution is 25 per cent, for projects which started before 30th June, 1977 and 50 per cent for projects which commenced after 1st July, 1977. An allocation of \$1·145 Million has been provided in 1977-78 as the State's share for works administered by the Hospitals and Charities Commission under this Program. This allocation will be adjusted when detailed programs are finalized later in the year.

ITEM 182 (LOANS TO PUBLIC CEMETERIES—\$25,000).

An allocation of \$20,000 has been made in 1977-78 for advances to Trustees of Public Cemeteries to assist them in meeting the cost of approved schemes for the improvement and development of the cemeteries which they control.

ITEM 183 (SUBSIDIES TO PRE-SCHOOL, INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, ETC.—\$2,000,000).

The 1977-78 Works Program provides for expenditure of \$1.75 Million on capital grants to pre-school, infant welfare centres and day nurseries.

Pre-Schools.

The main share of the allocation will be spent on the establishment and improvement of kindergartens. The State is administering the Victorian Pre-School and Childhood Services Programs which were commenced in 1973-74 in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government.

In accordance with the 1976 Policy Speech undertaking, the State contributes up to a maximum of \$30,000 on a \$2 for \$1 basis towards the capital costs of a Kindergarten. If the project is one approved by the Commonwealth for funding it may obtain up to an additional \$87,000 from that source.

The Commonwealth Government has reduced its level of approvals for new pre-school projects during the last twelve months. Expenditure on behalf of the Commonwealth during the current financial year represents projects approved by the Commonwealth two and three years ago.

Total expenditure on pre-school centres in 1977-78 is estimated at \$2.6 Million and it is expected that approximately 70 Kindergartens will be completed. The State contribution towards this program is estimated at \$1.5 Million which forms part of the above appropriation. The Commonwealth contribution is estimated at \$1.1 Million for which appropriation is not sought under this Bill.

Infant Welfare/Pre Natal Centres.

During the past five years the State has made available \$720,000 as capital subsidies towards the cost of Infant Welfare and Pre-Natal Centres. Subsidies provided are on a \$2 for \$1 basis with a maximum subsidy of \$12,000. Estimated expenditure for 1977-78 is \$200,000, providing for the completion of 15 new centres and for improvements and extensions to existing centres.

Day Nurseries.

Grants totalling \$85,000 were paid during 1976-77 towards the cost of day nurseries and it is expected that applications seeking subsidies of at least \$50,000 will be considered in 1977-78. The maximum subsidy for a day nursery is \$20,000; the first \$6,000 being on a \$2 for \$1 basis and the balance on a \$1 for \$1 basis.

ITEM 184 (GRANTS TO SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES—\$2,000,000).

Since 1955, when the scheme of capital assistance for Elderly Citizens Clubs was introduced by the State Government, \$6,287,000 has been paid to Municipal Councils in capital subsidies. Of this amount, \$4,150,000 has been contributed by the Commonwealth since 1971 when Victoria elected to participate in the joint Commonwealth/State arrangements covered by the *States Grants (Home Care) Act, 1969*.

The present basis of capital grants is :—

- (a) For projects not exceeding \$30,000—a grant equal to the actual cost.
- (b) For projects over \$30,000—a basic grant of \$30,000, plus \$2 for each \$1 contributed to the project by the Municipal Council from Municipal Funds.

The maximum contribution from State Funds is \$10,000 for each Club and the balance of each subsidy is provided by the Commonwealth.

During 1976-77, 10 new Clubrooms were opened. The Commonwealth has recently approved a further 36 projects, six of which are for new Clubrooms and the balance are for extensions and/or furniture and equipment for existing Clubrooms. However, the Commonwealth has indicated that funds for these new projects are not likely to be made available until 1978-79.

An allocation of \$1.7 Million is provided from the Works and Services Account in the current financial year to enable projects which are presently in course to proceed. Most of this amount will be recouped from the Commonwealth.

ITEM 185 (DAY TRAINING CENTRES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND ADULTS—\$3,500,000).

Under this Item, authority is given for the following :—

	\$
(1) The payment of \$4 : \$1 capital grants to voluntary organizations for the provision of non-residential facilities for mentally retarded children and adults	2,400,000
(2) Special bridging finance to the Mentally Retarded Childrens Welfare Association for a new Nursing Home and Residential Complex at Oakleigh, pending recoupment from the Commonwealth Government under the <i>Handicapped Persons Assistance Act 1974</i>	500,000
	2,900,000

Over recent years payments of capital grants on the established basis have increased from \$700,000 in 1973-74 to \$3,277,000 in 1976-77, with a further \$2,400,000 being allocated in the current financial year.

There are at present 53 Day Training Centres operating under the control of Local Committees registered with the Health Department, which cater for mentally retarded children and adults. These Centres have a total enrolment of 2,862 trainees. Fifteen Centres have transferred their administration to the Education Department in the last two years.

The presently approved detailed program for 1977-78 is as follows :—

<i>Centre.</i>	<i>Project.</i>	<i>Total Estimated Cost.</i>	<i>1977-78 Subsidy.</i>
		\$	\$
Ballarat	Workshop Extensions	250,000	50,000
Cobram	Land	20,000	16,000
Corio	Kindergarten Wing	99,800	79,840
Croydon	Workshop	20,110	16,088
Croydon	Special Care Unit—Stage II	95,900	76,720
Doncaster	Playground	35,600	28,480
Echuca	Extensions	260,000	110,000
Footscray	Extensions	214,391	171,513
Geelong	Special Care Unit	30,000	24,000
Geelong	Workshop	268,370	214,696
Horsham	New Centre	600,000	336,000
Lilydale—Melba	New Centre	133,618	106,894
Macleod	New Centre	25,054	20,043
Mildura	Extensions	75,000	60,000
Moorabbin	Adult Unit	49,367	39,494
Mornington	New Centre	490,000	392,000
Morwell	New Centre	50,000	40,000
Orbost	New Centre	45,000	36,000
Springvale	Land	80,000	64,000
Terang	Extensions	55,000	44,000
Warracknabeal	New Centre	110,130	88,104
Warragul	Extensions and Alterations	200,000	110,000
Wodonga	Adult Unit	35,000	28,000
Wodonga	Garage and Groundworks	20,500	16,400
Other Projects .. .. .	.. .. .	..	231,728
	TOTAL .. .. .	..	2,400,000

ITEM 186 ("THE AGE" MINUS CHILDREN APPEAL—CONTRIBUTIONS—\$31,000).

During 1975 the Government agreed to match the proceeds of "The Age" Minus Children Appeal on a \$1 for \$1 basis up to a maximum of \$1,100,000. The funds raised are being used to establish a Recreational Development Centre at Kew Cottages, providing facilities for Arts and Crafts, Homecrafts, a Kindergarten-Play Centre, a Music Hall, a First Aid Centre and Management areas. The new Centre was officially opened on Tuesday, 4th October, 1977.

In July of this year, a further grant of \$60,435 was made available towards the cost of wiring for an intercommunications and closed circuit television system, the provision of floor and wall furnishings and for other minor works, and the Government undertook to provide further funds on a matching basis to meet increased building costs.

The estimated total payments by the Government under these arrangements is now \$1,171,000. The appropriation of \$31,000 sought under this Item covers the unclaimed balance of this matching commitment.

Over and above the commitments under this Item, \$115,000 has been provided under Item 44 of the Bill towards the furnishing and equipping of the buildings.

ITEM 187 (GRANT TO VICTORIAN BABY HEALTH CENTRES ASSOCIATION—\$80,000).

The Victorian Baby Health Centres Association recently conducted a public appeal for funds towards the construction of a building at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Carlton, for use as a day nursery for infants and pre-school children.

The Government has agreed to match Appeal contributions on a \$1 for \$1 basis up to \$100,000. However, \$20,000 of the Government contribution will be provided in the form of the normal Health Department grant under Item 183 of this Bill for this purpose.

Construction of the building is expected to commence early in 1978.

ITEM 191 (TOURIST FUND—\$500,000).

It is anticipated that the State's contributions to the Tourist Fund from the Works and Services Account in 1977-78 will total \$285,000.

Of this amount, \$250,000 will be allocated for the connection of public toilet blocks to sewer mains at bayside beaches and at other inland and coastal resorts where pollution is causing problems.

A further \$35,000 has been provided for snow clearing of the Mount Hotham Alpine Road.

ITEM 192 (GRANT TO PRITCHARD STEAM POWER PTY. LTD.—\$50,000).

As Honorable Members are aware, the Government has recently agreed to provide a grant of up to \$50,000 to enable the testing of an automobile steam-power unit being developed by Pritchard Steam Power Pty. Ltd., at Bayswater. This grant is conditional upon the Commonwealth Government providing two-thirds of the estimated total cost of \$150,000 under a joint program.

This Item provides the necessary Parliamentary Authority for the payment of this grant.

ITEM 201 (LOAN TO THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL THEATRE LTD.—\$150,000).

This Item provides authority to cover the payment of a long-term interest-free loan of \$150,000 which was made to National Memorial Theatre Ltd., in March 1977. This loan which was provided to alleviate financial problems facing the Company, is secured by a second mortgage held by the Treasurer over the National Theatre building in Barkly Street, St. Kilda.

ITEM 202 (LOAN AND GRANT TO THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY—\$215,610).

In 1976 the Government provided an amount of \$215,610 towards the purchase by the National Gallery of Victoria of "A Miracle of the Sacrament" by Stefano di Giovanni on the basis of one-half loan repayable over three years, and one-half grant.

This work is a masterpiece in its own right, and enriches the meaning of the Gallery's other Early Renaissance paintings.

This Item provides the necessary authority for this payment.

ITEM 203 (GRANT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VICTORIA—\$11,000).

This Item will provide authority for a grant of \$11,000 which was provided to the Council of the Science Museum of Victoria for the purchase of a 1898 De Dion Bouton Voiturette for inclusion in the Museum's collection. This vehicle is the only example of its type in Australia and has several features which are of historic and technical interest.

ITEM 204 (GRANT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF VICTORIA COUNCIL FOR PURCHASE OF ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS—\$2,000).

The Government provided a grant in March this year to the National Museum of Victoria Council for the purchase of aboriginal artifacts from the collection of Mr. F. Smith which were to be offered for sale at auction. These artifacts were considered to comprise one of the most highly valued private collections in Victoria and this grant enabled them to be retained for public exhibition. The appropriation sought under this Item covers the cost of this purchase.

ITEM 205 ("DOXA" YOUTH WELFARE FOUNDATION APPEAL—CONTRIBUTIONS—\$130,000).

During 1976-77, the Government approved contributions totalling \$130,000 to the "Doxa" Youth Welfare Foundation Appeal comprising—

(a) a \$5,000 initial donation to the Foundation's Appeal, and,

(b) \$125,000 representing a \$1 for \$1 matching of public contributions to the Appeal.

The Foundation has established a low cost holiday camp for underprivileged children between nine and fifteen years of age in a bush setting close to the Loddon River near Malmsbury. 3,000 children per annum will holiday at this complex which comprises fully-equipped bungalows, dining room, kitchen, common room, gymnasium and Manager's residence.

The appropriation sought under this Item provides the necessary Parliamentary Authority to cover the above contributions.

ITEM 206 ("BISHOPSCOURT" RESTORATION APPEAL—CONTRIBUTION—\$10,000).

An appeal was sponsored by the National Trust and launched in October 1976, for funds towards the cost of restoring the residence of the Archbishop of the Diocese of Melbourne at "Bishopscourt" in Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. This particular building was the Government House in Victoria from 1874-1876 while the present Government House was under construction. A Government contribution of \$10,000 was made to the Appeal and this Item provides the necessary authority for this payment.

ITEM 207 (ST. JAMES' OLD CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL—CONTRIBUTION—\$5,000).

The National Trust launched an appeal in July 1976, for funds to restore the St. James' Old Cathedral which, since 1914, has been situated on the corner of King and Batman Streets.

St. James' Old Cathedral, which was completed in 1839, served initially as the Parish Church of Melbourne and with the founding of the Diocese of Melbourne, became the Cathedral Church for 44 years. In recent years the Church's stonework has experienced serious weathering and the structure itself has failed.

Item 207 provides the necessary authority for the Government contribution of \$5,000 which has been made to this Appeal.

ITEM 208 (GRANT TO THE VICTORIA CONSERVATION TRUST—\$54,538).

In 1976-77 the Government provided a \$1 for \$1 grant of \$54,538 to the Victoria Conservation Trust towards the cost of purchasing the Baxter Provender or "Euratta" property on the corner of Moorooduc and Sage Roads, Frankston.

This property, which is classified by the National Trust and is listed in the Register of Historic Buildings, consists of 13·7 hectares on which stands a cottage constructed in 1853 by an emigrant, John Edward Sage. Sage managed this property on behalf of Melbourne's first Post-Master General, Captain Benjamin Baxter, who, in October 1843, took up a squatting licence for an area of 15,000 acres stretching from Port Phillip to Westernport Bays.

It is planned to set aside part of the property for development as a market garden by the Yooralla Society of Victoria as part of its program for the rehabilitation of the handicapped. The appropriation sought under this item provides the necessary Parliamentary Authority to cover the above grant.

ITEM 209 (GRANT TO COMMITTEE FOR GIPPSLAND FIELD DAYS—\$10,000).

This item provides authority for the payment of a grant of \$10,000 to the Gippsland Field Days Committee on a \$2 : \$1 basis. This grant represents a contribution towards the installation of underground pipes and dam development at the Committee's Lardner property.

ITEM 210 (GRANT TO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH IMPAIRED HEARING—\$900,000).

The Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing is to establish a diagnostic consultative and pre-school health and educational service for hearing-impaired children from infancy to school age, involving their parents and family.

The 1976 Public Works and Services Act made provision for a grant of \$161,000 for the purchase of a site at Blackburn for the new Centre. Actual expenditure up to 30th June, 1977, amounted to \$171,870, the additional cost covering architects fees incurred in drawing up the required plans.

The proposed appropriation provided in this Bill covers the necessary Parliamentary sanction for this additional expenditure and also expenditure on building works during the currency of the new Act.

Plans for building works have now been completed and a tender will be let shortly. Further assistance will be provided to the Advisory Council as building work proceeds.